

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104227

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM SAIGON MAY 26 REPEATED YOU:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 9353

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS SNAR, VS

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON NARCOT

CS CONTROL

REF: STATE 101281

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MACV' S JANUARY CABLE REPORT ON MISSION' S
DISCUSSION ON NARCOTICS MATTERS WITH SENATE APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE:

2. BEGIN TEXT: FROM 1030-1130 HOURS, 18 JAN AMB WHITEHOUSE
DISCUSSED NARCOTICS PROBLEM IN VIETNAM WITH SENATORS HOLLINGS
AND STEVENS. ALSO PRESENT WERE MR. ROBERT CHAMBERS AND
MR. ROBERT DUMONT FROM GAO, MR. CHARLES HILL, US EMBASSY
AND COLONEL RUSSELL, MACV.

3. AMB WHITEHOUSE GAVE AN OVERVIEW OF HEROIN PROBLEM IN
VIETNAM, A SYNTHESIZED VERSION OF THE MACV DRUG BRIEFING, E. G.,
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HEROIN NO. 4 SHOWED UP FIRST IN LATE 1970, MACV DEVELOPED A PROGRAM WHICH GOT INTO FULL SWING MID 71, ETC. THE SENATORS ASKED FOR THE AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS ON THE BOOK, "THE POLITICS OF HEROIN IN SOUTHEAST ASIA" WRITTEN BY ALFRED MCCOY. THE AMBASSADOR COVERED THE SAME GROUND AS COVERED IN MESSAGES OVER THE PAST YEAR REFERENCE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST GENERAL DZU AND AIR AMERICA.

4. SENATOR HOLLINGS STATED HE WAS TRYING TO GET A HANDLE ON THE MAGNITUDE OF PROBLEM AND ASKED ABOUT URINE STATISTICS, NUMBER OF MILITARY PUSHERS APPREHENDED AND COURT-MARTIALED AND WHAT HAD BEEN DONE TO DRY UP THE SOURCES AROUND THE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS. THE FOLLOWING ANSWERS WERE GIVEN TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS:

A. FROM A HIGH 5 PERCENT POSITIVE URINALYSIS ON DEROS IN 1971, LATEST STATISTICS FOR DECEMBER SHOW 1.48 PERCENT POSITIVE. THE GAO REPRESENTATIVES WERE QUICK TO CITE THEIR STATISTICS CONTAINED IN A GAO REPORT THAT CLOSED OUT AS OF AUGUST 1971. THEY POINTED OUT TO THE SENATORS THAT IN ADDITION TO THE DEROS CHECK THERE WAS THE RANDOM URINALYSIS CHECK, THE GANG PLANK CHECK AND ALTHOUGH NOT INCLUDED IN THE URINALYSIS, THERE WAS A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER WHO HAD TURNED THEMSELVES IN FOR AMNESTY. THIS LED BOTH SENATORS HOLLINGS AND STEVENS (WHO WERE HERE IN 1971) TO ENGAGE IN THE MATHEMATICAL EXTRAPOLATION OF COMING UP WITH GREAT PERCENTAGES AND NUMBERS OF SERVICEMEN WHO HAD BEEN SENT BACK TO THE STATES AND RELEASED ON SOCIETY. IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS DUPLICATE COUNTING USING THIS APPROACH. THE NUMBER OF 2500 INDIVIDUALS AS HAVING BEEN IDENTIFIED AS USING OR POSSESSING NARCOTICS WAS GIVEN, AGAIN POINTING OUT THAT IN MOST CASES THESE INDIVIDUALS WERE INCLUDED IN THE URINALYSIS STATISTICS.

B. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON DRYING UP SOURCES IT WAS STATED THAT HEROIN IS STILL AVAILABLE; HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE NEW DECREE MAKING SALE OF LARGE QUANTITIES A DEATH OFFENSE THAT ONLY SMALL QUANTITIES ARE ABLE TO BE PURCHASED AND SECURITY CHECKS AT MILITARY INSTALLATIONS HAVE REDUCED ITS AVAILABILITY THROUGH GVN EMPLOYEES.

5. BOTH SENATORS CONSIDERED THE MILITARY SERVICES PROGRAM IN VIETNAM AS GOOD BUT WERE VERY CRITICAL OF THE SERVICES PERSONNEL POLICIES REGARDING INDIVIDUALS IDENTIFIED AS USING HEROIN. THEY CITED THE NOTIFICATIONS ON AN INDIVIDUAL'S MEDICAL RECORDS, PERSONNEL

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RECORDS AND DISCHARGES GIVEN. SENATOR STEVENS CITED A CASE OF ONE OF THE CONSTITUENTS WHO RECEIVED A BAD CONDUCT DISCHARGE FOR USING HEROIN, THUS LOSING ALL OF HIS BENEFITS FOR SCHOOLING, VA MEDICAL HELP, ETC. ONLY AFTER HE THREATENED SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL ACTION WAS IT POSSIBLE TO GET SOME BENEFITS REINSTATED FOR THIS CONSTITUENT.

SPECIFICS WERE NOT GIVEN AS TO BRANCH OF SERVICE, TIME, ETC.
SENATOR HOLLINGS ASKED WHAT SEPARATE PROGRAMS WERE IN EFFECT IN
VIETNAM STATING THAT THIS YEAR THEY WOULD SPEND \$731,000,000 ON

244 PROGRAMS. THE DETECTION, DETOXIFICATION, EDUCATION AND
ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS WERE CITED WITH GAO POINTING OUT THAT THE
URINE TESTING EQUIPMENT IN COUNTRY AS OF AUGUST WAS VALUED OVER
\$400,000 AND THAT SUPPLIES FOR OPERATION OF URINE TESTING EQUIPMENT
IN COUNTRY AT THAT TIME WAS VALUED OVER \$900,000.

6. THE QUESTION OF HEROIN BEING SHIPPED FROM VIETNAM IN BODIES
WAS RAISED. PROCEDURES IN EFFECT WERE CITED AND A STATEMENT MADE
THAT WE HAVE NO RECORD OF ANY BODY FOUND WITH HEROIN INSIDE.
END TEXT.
WHITEHOUSE

UNQUOTE RUSH

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